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ABSTRACT

This report provides data on children in Puerto Rico based on the 2000 U.S. Census. It compares the situation of Puerto Rico's children with that of children living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, noting how characteristics of Puerto Rican children have changed over time. Between 1990-2000, the number of Puerto Rican children decreased 5 percent, while the number of U.S. children increased 14 percent. This decline related to declining Puerto Rican fertility rates and migration of Puerto Rican families to the U.S. mainland. In 2000, about 27 percent of Puerto Rican families with children were headed by females, an increase from 22 percent in 1990. The percentage of female-headed households was highest in Puerto Rico's urban areas. In 1999, over half of Puerto Rico's children lived in poverty, while the U.S. child poverty rate dropped from 18 to 16 percent during the 1990s. Puerto Rico's high school dropout rate decreased from 22 to 14 percent between 1990-2000, while the U.S. dropout rate was 10 percent in 2000. Dropout rates tended to be highest in Puerto Rico's rural areas. About one-third of adult Puerto Rican women were in the labor force in 2000, compared to 58 percent of U.S. women. Child poverty rates tended to be highest in Puerto Rico's rural communities. (Contains 13 tables/figures and 42 endnotes.) (SM)

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A KIDS COUNT/PRB Report on

CENSUS 2000

Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census

By Mark Mather

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Children in Puerto Rico:
Results from the 2000 Census

By Mark Mather
The Population Reference Bureau

The Annie E. Casey Foundation and
the Population Reference Bureau
August 2003

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of children[1] in Puerto Rico, based on data from the 2000 U.S. Census. It documents the situation of children in Puerto Rico, how it compares with conditions of children living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and how the characteristics of children in Puerto Rico have changed over time. The census, conducted every 10 years, includes basic demographic information about age, gender, race, and Hispanic origin, as well as more detailed socioeconomic information about poverty, education, family structure, household characteristics, income, place of residence, and other characteristics. Data from the decennial census also provide information for local communities in Puerto Rico that are not available from any other source.[2] The following key points summarize the report's major findings:

Children in Puerto Rico

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children in Puerto Rico decreased by 5 percent, from 1,154,527 to 1,092,101, while in the United States, the number of children increased by 14 percent. The number of children living in Puerto Rico today is roughly equal to the number of children living there in 1950.
- The drop in the percentage of the population under age 18, from 50 percent in 1960 to 29 percent in 2000, is linked to declining fertility rates in Puerto Rico and the migration of Puerto Rican families to the U.S. mainland.
- In 2000, about 27 percent of families with children in Puerto Rico were headed by a female householder. This represents an increase over the share of female-headed families

with children in 1990 (22 percent). In the United States, the share of female-headed families increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2000.

- In 1999, more than half of the children in Puerto Rico—58 percent—lived in families with incomes below the poverty line. American Samoa (at 67 percent) was the only U.S. state, territory or commonwealth with a higher child poverty rate than Puerto Rico. Between 1989 and 1999, the child poverty rate in the Commonwealth decreased from 67 percent to 58 percent. In the United States, the child poverty rate dropped from 18 percent to 16 percent during the 1990s.
- The percentage of 16-to-19-year-olds in Puerto Rico who were high school dropouts (not enrolled in school and not high school graduates) decreased from 22 percent in 1990 to 14 percent in 2000. In the United States, about 10 percent of 16-to-19-year-olds were high school dropouts in 2000.
- About one-third (34 percent) of adult women ages 16 and over in Puerto Rico were in the labor force in 2000. In the United States, about 58 percent of adult women were in the labor force in 2000. The low rate of female labor force participation in Puerto Rico is associated with a relatively small percentage of children in need of child care (40 percent), compared with the United States (59 percent). However, it is not clear from these census data whether the need for child care is low because women are not entering the labor force, or whether women are not motivated to seek work because there are few child care options available to them.

Children in Local Communities

- The population under age 18 decreased in 50 of Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities during the 1990s. However, there were five municipalities where the number of children increased by 10 percent or more: Toa Alta (30 percent), Florida (26 percent), Gurabo (16 percent), Culebra (12 percent), and Morovis (10 percent). The municipalities with the largest population decreases were Cataño (22 percent), Mayagüez and Ponce (17 percent each), and Arroyo (16 percent).
- In 1999, the child poverty rate was highest in Vieques (81 percent) and lowest in Trujillo Alto (40 percent). Child poverty rates tended to be highest in Puerto Rico's rural communities.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the share of families with children headed by women increased in 77 of 78 municipalities. The percentage of female-headed families with children was highest in Puerto Rico's urban areas, particularly in San Juan (41 percent) and in nearby Cataño (37 percent).
- There were seven municipalities where at least one-fifth of teens were high school dropouts in 2000, including Adjuntas and Aguadilla (22 percent each), Luquillo (21 percent), and Ciales, Guánica, Salinas, and Vieques (20 percent each). Dropout rates tended to be higher in rural areas.
- High school dropout rates declined in every municipality during the 1990s. Municipalities with the biggest declines in high school dropout rates included Arroyo, Florida, Jayuya, Lajas, Patillas, and San Germán.

Background on Puerto Rico

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is located in the Caribbean, about 1,000 miles southeast of Miami and 80 miles west of the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition to the principal island, Puerto Rico has four main offshore islands—Vieques and Culebra to the east, and Mona and Desecheo to the west (See Appendix 1 for a map of Puerto Rico).[3] There were 3,808,610 people living in Puerto Rico in 2000. With over 1,100 people per square mile, population density on the Island is similar to that of New Jersey, the most densely populated state.

Political Context

Puerto Rico has been part of the United States since the end of the Spanish-American War (1898), and became a commonwealth in 1952. Politically, the Island resembles the 50 states. Every four years, the people of Puerto Rico elect a governor, 28 senators, and 51 House members to serve in the local government. Puerto Rico's voters also elect a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The United States maintains control over Puerto Rico's military defense, transportation, immigration, foreign trade, and many other areas of governance. Puerto Rican residents contribute to Social Security, serve in the U.S. military, and can be called for military service. They do not pay federal income taxes and do not vote in U.S. presidential elections. Puerto Ricans are eligible to participate in federal government programs, but levels of assistance are typically lower than those provided for people living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. For example, in 1999, the average monthly payment to families through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was $101 in Puerto Rico, compared with $454 in New York—the state where Puerto Ricans are most highly concentrated.[4]

In addition to TANF, there are several other federal programs that provide support for children and families in Puerto Rico, including nutritional assistance programs, Head Start, Job Corps, and school lunch programs. Residents of Puerto Rico are not eligible to receive Supplemental Security Income and, because they do not pay federal income taxes, they cannot receive the Earned Income Tax Credit, an important source of support for many low-income working families in the United States.

Economics

Fifty years ago, Puerto Rico was a largely rural island where most people made a living as farmers. Since becoming a commonwealth, Puerto Rico has developed closer economic ties with the United States, with increasing revenue from industry, agriculture, and tourism.[5] While U.S. median household income increased by 7 percent between 1989 and 1999 (adjusting for inflation), median household income in Puerto Rico increased by 24 percent.[6]

However, income levels in Puerto Rico still lag far behind those in the rest of the United States. In 1999, median household income in Puerto Rico was $14,412. West Virginia's median household income—at $29,696—was the lowest among the 50 states but was still twice as high as the median income in Puerto Rico. The median household income in New Jersey—at $55,146—was the highest of the 50 states and was almost four times higher than the median income in Puerto Rico. Among Hispanic/Latino households in New Jersey, median household income was $39,609, still more than two and a half times the median income in Puerto Rico.[7] The economic downturn since 2000 is likely to put an additional strain on the Island's limited resources.[8]

Migration To and From Puerto Rico

Since people living in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens, they are free to travel throughout the United States and its territories. In 2000, there were 3.4 million people living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia who identified themselves as Puerto Rican.[9] This means that there were approximately nine Puerto Ricans living in the United States for every 10 people living in Puerto Rico. Of the Puerto Ricans living in the United States, nearly three-fourths (74 percent) lived in six states: New York, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. There are over 1 million Puerto Ricans living in New York state alone.[10] High unemployment rates in Puerto Rico, as well as greater job opportunities in the United States, have prompted more people to move to the mainland in recent years.[11] The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that between 2000 and 2001, there was negative net migration in Puerto Rico.[12] In other words, the number of people leaving the Island exceeded the number of new arrivals.

While many people have moved from Puerto Rico to the U.S. mainland, there is also a growing number of people moving to Puerto Rico from elsewhere in the Caribbean—especially the Dominican Republic. In 2000, there were 109,581 foreign-born residents in Puerto Rico, accounting for 3 percent of the total population. Over half of the foreign-born population came to Puerto Rico from the Dominican Republic.[13] Since some Dominicans in Puerto Rico are undocumented immigrants—who are difficult to count in the census—their actual numbers could be higher.[14]

Limitations of Census Data in Puerto Rico

Estimates from the 2000 Census may differ from estimates based on other surveys conducted in Puerto Rico. There are several possible reasons for this. First, the way that the

census measures high school dropout rates, poverty, and other variables may differ from the way these concepts are measured in other surveys. For example, in this report, high school dropouts are defined as teens ages 16 to 19 who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates. These "status" estimates of high school dropouts may differ from "event" estimates based on the number of people who drop out of high school in a given year. The estimated percentage of teens who are high school dropouts (14 percent) is also substantially lower than the percentage of people age 25 and over who did not graduate from high school (40 percent) in Puerto Rico.[15] This dramatic difference reflects increases in educational attainment in Puerto Rico during the past several decades.

Second, estimates could differ because they are based on data collected at different periods. For example, child poverty rates in this report are based on family income received during 1999. However, the U.S. economic downturn since 2000 has resulted in increases in child poverty rates in many states and local areas.

Third, differences could reflect sampling error associated with different sample sizes. The census long form was sent to approximately one out of every six residents of Puerto Rico, yielding a sample of approximately 17 percent of the Island's population. Other surveys, based on smaller samples, would produce estimates with more potential for measurement error.[16] Non-measurement errors, such as problems in data collection or processing, could also result in differences between sources.

Fourth, there are always challenges in conducting a complete and accurate census, and these challenges are magnified in Puerto Rico. High levels of migration between the U.S. mainland and Puerto Rico, cultural differences in defining household structure, and the relatively large underground economy in Puerto Rico pose potential problems for census enumerators.[17]

Moreover, undocumented workers from the Dominican Republic may be particularly difficult to count because of their illegal status.[18]

The 2000 Census response rate was lower in Puerto Rico (53 percent) than the return rates in any state or the District of Columbia. In the United States as a whole, the return rate was 67 percent.[19] Although the Census Bureau has not published undercount rates for Puerto Rico, recent estimates from the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation survey indicate that there was a net undercount of about 250,000 Hispanics/Latinos in the United States as a whole.[20]

Data on Race and Ethnicity in Puerto Rico

The 2000 Census was the first census in Puerto Rico since 1950 to include questions about race or ethnicity. By including the same questions in the Puerto Rico census as those included in the state questionnaires, the Census Bureau was able to speed up the processing and dissemination of data for Puerto Rico. However, many groups in Puerto Rico have argued that the Census Bureau's racial and ethnic categories—as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget—are not meaningful in the Puerto Rico context.

For people in Puerto Rico, as well as Hispanics/Latinos living in the United States, "race is a flexible concept." This is evident in a comparison of race responses between people living in Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans living in the United States. Although the groups share the same heritage, they have very different ideas about racial identity. About 81 percent of people in Puerto Rico identified themselves as white in the 2000 Census, but Puerto Ricans residing in the United States were almost equally likely to say they were white (46 percent) as "some other race" (47 percent).

Source: Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "For Millions of Latinos, Race is a Flexible Concept," *The Los Angeles Times*, March 11, 2003.

For more information: See Jorge Duany, *The Puerto Rican Nation on the Move: Identities in the Island and the United States* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2002).

Readers should keep in mind that the decennial census is one of many tools that can be used to investigate the status of children in Puerto Rico. Although the picture provided by the census data is incomplete, it provides a useful starting point to look at several different dimensions of child well-being. In addition, the shortcomings in the census may provide incentive to collect additional data on children and families to fill in the gaps and provide a better understanding of children's lives.

Children in Puerto Rico

This section provides an overview of demographic, social, and economic trends for children in Puerto Rico, based primarily on data released by the U.S. Census Bureau in September 2002. Estimates for Puerto Rico are compared with estimates for neighboring territories and with U.S. averages that combine data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Puerto Rico data for 1990 are based on published census reports, available online at www.census.gov/population/www/proas/pr_cen.html. For information about how the census was conducted in Puerto Rico and where to find additional census data for the Commonwealth, see Appendix 2.

General Trends

The population living in Puerto Rico has increased during each decade since the first U.S. census was conducted in 1899 (see Table 1). In 1899, there were nearly 1 million people living in Puerto Rico. By 1950 the population had more than doubled, reaching 2.2 million. During the past 30 years, increased migration from Puerto Rico to the U.S. mainland, combined with a decrease in fertility levels, has slowed population growth in the Commonwealth. Between 1970 and 1980, there was an 18 percent increase in the Commonwealth's population, followed by a 10 percent increase during the 1980s and only an 8 percent increase during the 1990s, bringing the total population to 3.8 million. In the United States as a whole, there was a 13 percent increase in the population during the 1990s.

Table 1

Total Population and the Population Under Age 18 in Puerto Rico, 1899-2000

Year	Total population	Population under age 18	
		Number	Percent
1899	953,243	474,191	50%
1910	1,118,012	547,156	49%
1920	1,299,809	638,998	49%
1930	1,543,913	756,616	49%
1940	1,869,255	877,638	47%
1950	2,210,703	1,084,431	49%
1960	2,349,544	1,163,931	50%
1970	2,712,033	1,174,674	43%
1980	3,196,520	1,220,999	38%
1990	3,522,037	1,154,527	33%
2000	3,808,610	1,092,101	29%

Note: The data for 1899 were collected as of November 10, the data for 1910 were collected as of April 15, and the data for 1920 were collected as of January 1. For the other years, the data reflect the population on April 1. The number of children in 1899 was estimated by the Population Reference Bureau.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 Census Characteristics of the Population, Territories and Possessions; 1960 Census General Population Characteristics for Puerto Rico; 1970 Census General Population Characteristics for Puerto Rico; 1980 Census General Population Characteristics for Puerto Rico; 1990 Census General Population Characteristics for Puerto Rico; and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for Puerto Rico.

The population under age 18 increased from less than 500,000 at the turn of the 20th century to 1.1 million in 1950. The child population increased slightly each decade during the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, but has decreased since then, from 1.2 million in 1980 to 1.1 million in 2000. Therefore, the number of children living in Puerto Rico today is roughly equal to the number of children living there in 1950. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of children in Puerto Rico decreased by 5 percent, compared with a 14 percent *increase* in the United States. Despite the recent drop in the population under age 18, the number of children in Puerto Rico has more than doubled during the past century.

The proportion of children in the population has also declined in recent decades. Between 1899 and 1960, the share of children in the population hovered around 50 percent. But since then, there has been a steady decline in the percentage of children, from 43 percent of the

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population in 1970 to 29 percent in 2000. This is only slightly higher than the percentage of children in the United States (26 percent) and is lower than the share of children in the nearby U.S. Virgin Islands (32 percent). The long-term decline in the proportion of children in Puerto Rico's population does not reflect a significant decrease in the number of children but rather an increase in the number of adults relative to the child population.

The decline in the proportion of the population under age 18 has been driven by two main factors. First, there has been a long-term decline in fertility rates in Puerto Rico. In 1950, the fertility rate in Puerto Rico was 5.2 births per woman. By 1970, it had fallen to 3.2 births per woman, and by 2000 it had dropped to 1.9 births per woman.[21] The 2000 fertility rate in Puerto Rico was slightly lower than the rate in the United States as a whole (2.1 births per woman) and was substantially lower than the rate for U.S. women of Puerto Rican descent (2.6 births per woman).[22] The decline in fertility rates in Puerto Rico during the 1950s and 1960s has been linked to increasing levels of female sterilization during those decades.[23] Other factors, including a rising age at marriage and an increase in the use of oral contraceptives, have contributed to the decline in recent years,[24] but sterilization continues to play a key role. In fact, the estimated percentage of married women in Puerto Rico who have been sterilized—46 percent—is higher than that of any other country for which we have data.[25]

Second, many young Puerto Ricans and their families have moved to the U.S. mainland in search of greater job opportunities and higher wages.[26] Between 1995 and 2000, the net movement of people age 5 and over from Puerto Rico to the U.S. mainland exceeded 100,000 migrants.[27] This relatively high level of out-migration could contribute to the decline in the number of children in Puerto Rico in two ways—through the migration of children who come to

the U.S. mainland with their parents and through the out-migration of people of reproductive age, which reduces the number of potential births that occur on the Island.

Female-Headed Families

Family structure has important implications for children. Children growing up in single-parent families typically do not have access to the economic or human resources available to children growing up in two-parent families.[28] In the United States, the number of single-parent families has risen dramatically over the past three decades, causing considerable concern among policymakers and the public. While local social and cultural norms may influence the situation for children living in single-parent families (for example, they may benefit from extended family support), children in Puerto Rico growing up in single-parent families are still at an economic disadvantage relative to children growing up in families with both parents present in the household. About 44 percent of married-couple families with children were living in poverty in 1999, while among female-headed families with children, 71 percent were living in poverty. In the United States, about 7 percent of married-couple families with children—and 34 percent of female-headed families with children—were living in poverty in 1999.

In 2000, about 27 percent of families with children in Puerto Rico were headed by a female householder (see Table 2).[29] This represents an increase over the share of female-headed families with children in 1990 (22 percent) and is higher than the U.S. average. In the United States, the share of female-headed families increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2000.

The proportion of female-headed families increased in 48 of the 50 states during the 1990s (Colorado and Utah were the exceptions). In the U.S. Virgin Islands, about 46 percent of

families with children were headed by a female householder in 2000, up from 37 percent in 1990. These data suggest that the increase in female-headed households in Puerto Rico followed a trend seen throughout the United States.

Table 2
Families With Own Children in Puerto Rico, 1990 and 2000

Segment of the Population	1990		2000		Percent change in number of families
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total families with own children	487,058	100%	486,409	100%	0%
Married-couple households	363,989	75%	337,190	69%	-7%
Female-headed households	105,085	22%	131,584	27%	25%

Note: Own children include never-married children under age 18 who are sons or daughters of the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social and Economic Characteristics for Puerto Rico and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for Puerto Rico.

Poverty

In 1999, more than half of the children in Puerto Rico—58 percent—lived in families with incomes below the poverty line. Puerto Rico's child poverty rate was over three times higher than the child poverty rate in the United States (16 percent). American Samoa—at 67 percent—was the only U.S. state, territory or commonwealth with a higher child poverty rate than Puerto Rico in 1999.[30]

Although poverty levels in Puerto Rico are still quite high, they declined significantly during the 1990s—a period of unprecedented economic growth in the United States. Between 1989 and 1999, the number of children in Puerto Rico living in families with incomes below the poverty line decreased by 18 percent, from 761,789 to 626,521 (see Table 3). The percentage of children living in poor families also decreased, from 67 percent in 1989 to 58 percent in 1999. In the United States, the child poverty rate dropped from 18 percent to 16 percent during the 1990s.

The number of families living below the poverty line also declined, from 492,025 in 1989 to 450,254 in 1999. However, the number of female-headed families living in poverty increased by 12 percent, from 142,737 in 1989 to 159,205 in 1999. In 1999, the median income for female-headed families with children in Puerto Rico was $6,888, compared with $20,284 in the United States.[31]

Table 3
Children and Families Below the Poverty Line in Puerto Rico, 1989 and 1999

	1989		1999		
Segment of the Population	**Number below poverty line**	**Percent below poverty line**	**Number below poverty line**	**Percent below poverty line**	**Percent change in number below poverty line**
Related children under age 18	761,789	67%	626,521	58%	-18%
Under age 5	203,538	68%	167,510	58%	-18%
Ages 5 to 17	558,251	66%	459,011	59%	-18%
Families	492,025	55%	450,254	45%	-8%
With related children under age 18	339,312	62%	297,649	53%	-12%
Female-headed families	142,737	70%	159,205	61%	12%
With related children under age 18	101,393	78%	113,942	71%	12%

Note: Poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $16,895. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks or institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15. Related children include people under age 18 related to the householder (excluding spouses).
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census Social and Economic Characteristics for Puerto Rico and 2000 Census Population and Housing Profile for Puerto Rico.

High School Dropouts

During the past 50 years, Puerto Rico experienced a relatively rapid shift from small-scale agricultural production to an industrial and service-oriented economy. This transformation has led to a growing demand for educated workers with high school, college, and postgraduate degrees. In Puerto Rico, as in the United States, a high school diploma is a critical prerequisite for many entry-level jobs as well as for higher education.[32] However, many young adults in

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Puerto Rico do not graduate from high school. In 2000, about 14 percent of 16-to-19-year-olds in Puerto Rico were high school dropouts (not enrolled in school and not high school graduates). The high school dropout rate in Puerto Rico was relatively high compared with most states—exceeded only by Arizona (15 percent) and Nevada (16 percent). In the United States as a whole, about 10 percent of 16-to-19-year-olds were high school dropouts in 2000.[33]

Although the dropout rate in Puerto Rico remains relatively high, there has been considerable improvement in this measure since 1990, when 22 percent of 16-to-19-year-olds were not enrolled in school and not high school graduates.

The Need for Child Care

In this report, the need for child care is measured as the percentage of children under age 6 living in families where all of the parents in the household reported being in the labor force during the week before the survey.[34] For children living in single-parent families, this means that the resident parent was in the labor force; for children living in married-couple families, this means that both parents were in the labor force.

Based on this definition, the need for child care is lower in Puerto Rico than it is in the United States. However, it is not clear from these census data whether the need for child care is low because women are not entering the labor force or whether women are not motivated to seek work because there are so few child care options available to them. In addition, it is likely that some women who are "not in the labor force" are working in the informal sector, providing domestic services or involved in other work outside of the formal labor force. Puerto Rico has a relatively large informal or underground economy, consisting mainly of self-employed

workers—especially women.[35] The informal sector includes many domestic services (cooking, cleaning, sewing) as well as more formal services, such as catering and child care services.

In Puerto Rico, 40 percent of children under age 6 lived in families where all of the resident parents were in the labor force in 2000, compared with 59 percent in the United States as a whole, and 69 percent in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The relatively low percentage of children in need of child care is associated with the low percentage of women who are in the labor force. In Puerto Rico, about one-third (34 percent) of women ages 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000, compared with 58 percent in the United States as a whole.[36]

In Puerto Rico, as elsewhere, it is common for grandparents to provide child care while parents are working, and in many households, grandparents are the primary caregivers for young children. For the 2000 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau added a new question to measure the extent to which grandparents provided care to their grandchildren. In Puerto Rico, there were 133,881 grandparents who lived with their grandchildren in 2000, and about 53 percent reported that they were "responsible for most of the basic needs" of one or more of their co-resident grandchildren. This shows the importance of extended family members—particularly grandparents—as caregivers in the Commonwealth. In the United States, only 42 percent of grandparents who lived with their grandchildren reported being responsible for their care.

Children in Local Communities

Data from the decennial census provide detailed information for local communities in Puerto Rico that are not available from any other source. This section of the report takes an in-depth look at the characteristics of children and families living in the 78 municipalities that make up the Commonwealth. The municipalities in Puerto Rico are functioning governmental units, equivalent to counties in the mainland United States. The data show wide variations in child outcomes across these jurisdictions. (See Appendices 3 through 7 for tables that summarize the data for different municipalities.) The paper also summarizes information for Puerto Rico's rural, suburban, and central city areas, in order to help explain some of the local-level variation.[37]

General Trends

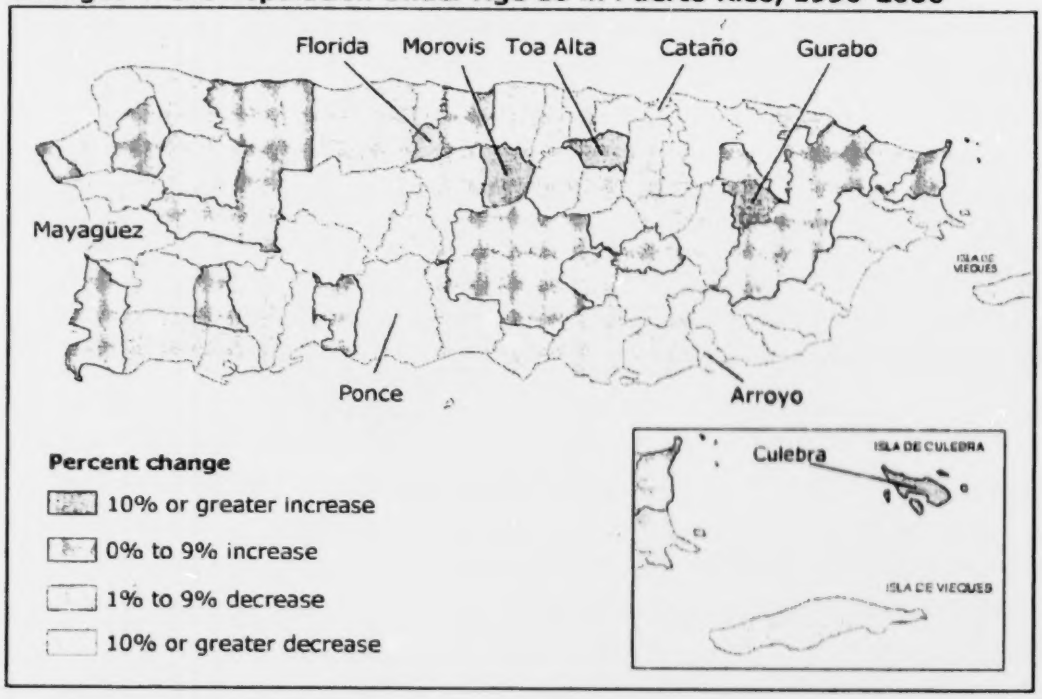
In Puerto Rico, the population under age 18 decreased by 5 percent during the 1990s, but trends varied in local areas. There were five municipalities where the number of children increased by 10 percent or more: Toa Alta (30 percent increase in the number of children since 1990), Florida (26 percent), Gurabo (16 percent), Culebra (12 percent), and Morovis (10 percent) (see Map 1). Fifty of the 78 municipalities experienced a decline in the population under age 18 during the 1990s. Those with the largest population decreases were Cataño (22 percent), Mayagüez and Ponce (17 percent each), and Arroyo (16 percent). Arroyo is one of several municipalities in the southeastern corner of the island where the population under age 18 decreased by 10 percent or more during the 1990s.

There is also variation in the proportion of the population under age 18 (see Appendix 3). The percentage of children was highest in rural and suburban areas (30 percent each) and lowest in central cities (26 percent). At the municipality level, the share of children was lowest in

Hormigueros and Mayagüez on the western side of the island (24 percent each), and San Juan in the north (25 percent). The percentage of children was highest in Barranquitas, Loíza, Morovis, and Peñuelas (35 percent each).

Map 1

Changes in the Population Under Age 18 in Puerto Rico, 1990-2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Female-Headed Families

In 2000, about 27 percent of families with children in Puerto Rico were headed by a female householder. However, there was substantial variation in this measure based on a family's residence in urban versus rural areas. Over a third (34 percent) of families in central cities were headed by a female householder, compared with 23 percent in suburban areas and only 16 percent in rural areas.

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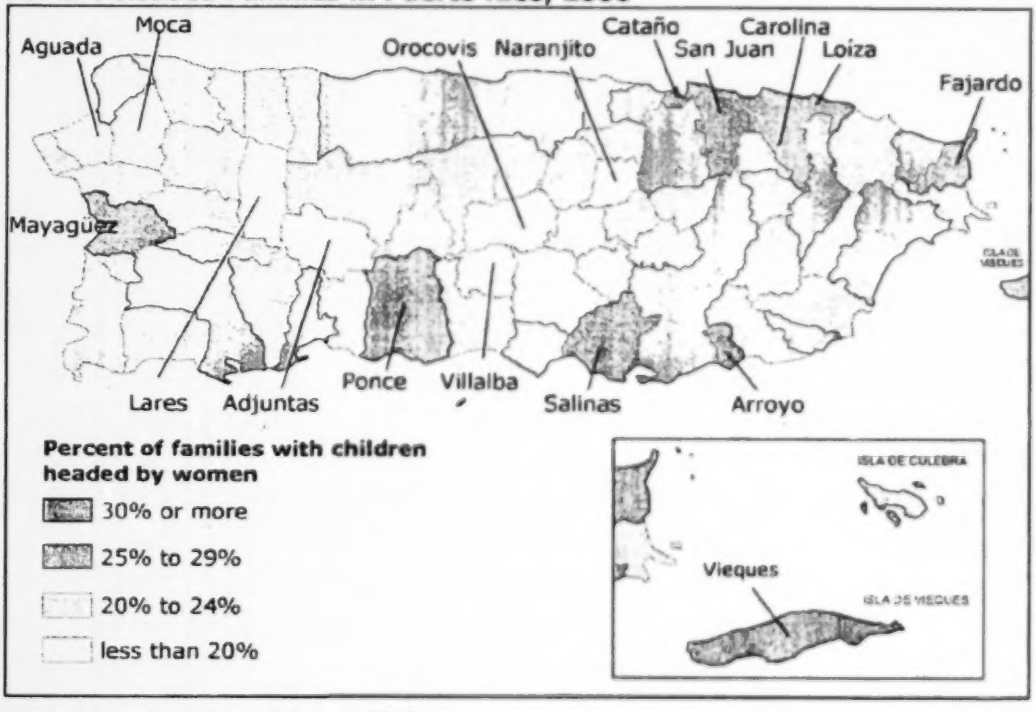
Locally, the percentage of families with children that were headed by a female householder was highest in San Juan (41 percent) and in nearby Cataño (37 percent) (see Map 2). There were seven other municipalities where the percentage was 30 percent or more, including Loíza (33 percent), Carolina and Vieques (32 percent each), Fajardo and Ponce (31 percent each), and Arroyo, Mayagüez, and Salinas (30 percent each). Most of these municipalities are located in Puerto Rico's more densely populated urban areas and suburbs. The percentage of female-headed households was lowest in Orocovis (16 percent), Aguada (17 percent), Moca, Naranjito, and Villalba (18 percent each), and Adjuntas and Lares (19 percent each).

Map 2

Female-Headed Families in Puerto Rico, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Between 1990 and 2000, the share of families with children headed by women increased in 77 out of 78 municipalities. The largest increase was in Comerío (84 percent), Morovis (71

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percent), and Barceloneta and Guayanilla (56 percent each). These are areas that had relatively few female-headed households in 1990 but experienced rapid increases during the past ten years. Hormigueros was the only municipality where the percentage decreased, from 24 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2000. Guánica and Gurabo each had relatively small increases in female-headed households during the 1990s (6 percent each).

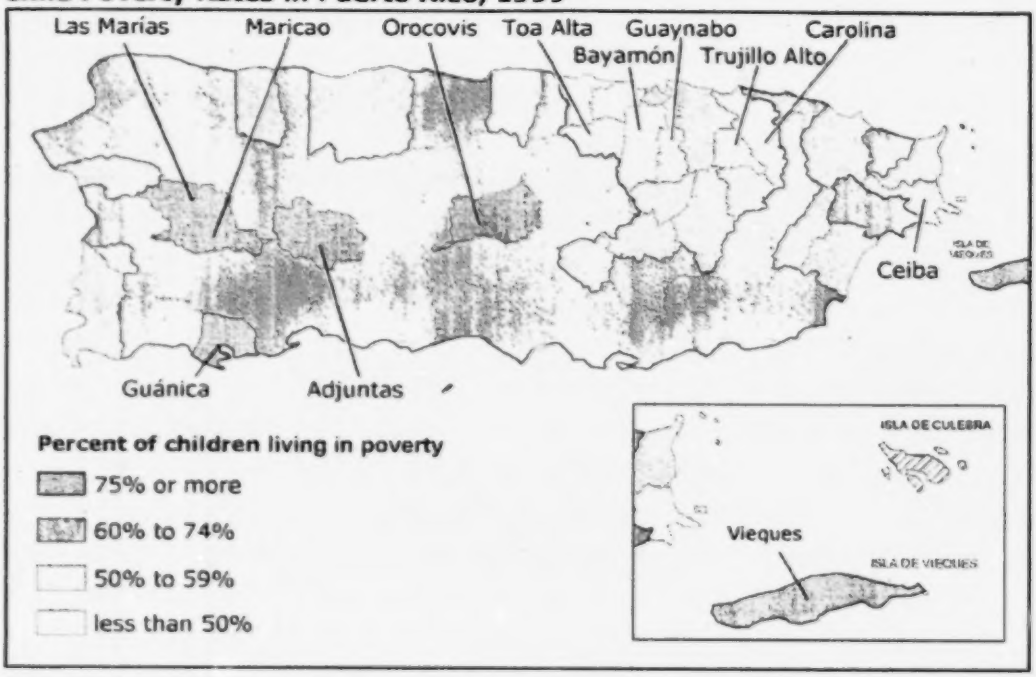
Poverty

In Puerto Rico as a whole, 58 percent of children were living in poverty in 1999. However, local child poverty rates varied considerably (see Map 3). Poverty rates tended to be highest in Puerto Rico's rural areas and lowest in central cities. Overall, 70 percent of children in rural areas were living in poverty in 1999, compared with 60 percent in suburban areas and 53 percent in central city areas. The lack of jobs in rural areas puts families at an economic disadvantage compared to their counterparts living in the cities and suburbs. In 2000, one in four adults in rural areas (25 percent) was unemployed, while the unemployment rates in the suburbs (21 percent) and central cities (16 percent) were considerably lower.[38]

At the municipality level, Vieques had the highest child poverty rate (81 percent), followed by Maricao (77 percent), Las Marías (76 percent), and Adjuntas, Guánica, and Orocovis (75 percent each). These municipalities are located in less developed, rural areas where there are fewer well-paying jobs. Trujillo Alto had the lowest child poverty rate in 1999 (40 percent), followed by Guaynabo (42 percent), Ceiba (43 percent), Bayamón and Toa Alta (44 percent each), and Carolina (45 percent). In general, child poverty rates were lowest in the suburbs in the San Juan metropolitan area. However, even the lowest child poverty rates in Puerto Rico are significantly higher than the U.S. average (16 percent).

Map 3

Child Poverty Rates in Puerto Rico, 1999



Note: Data for Culebra are not shown because of the small sample size.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Between 1989 and 1999, child poverty rates decreased in every municipality in Puerto Rico. Child poverty rates decreased the most in areas with relatively high rates of population growth. For example, Gurabo and Toa Alta were among the fastest growing municipalities during the 1990s, and experienced the largest decreases in child poverty rates—28 percent and 24 percent respectively. The island of Vieques, with the highest child poverty rate, had the smallest drop in child poverty—a 2 percent decrease. Other municipalities with only modest decreases in child poverty included Ciales (4 percent), Las Marías, Luquillo, and Mayagüez (6 percent each), and Ponce, Sabana Grande, and San Juan (7 percent each).

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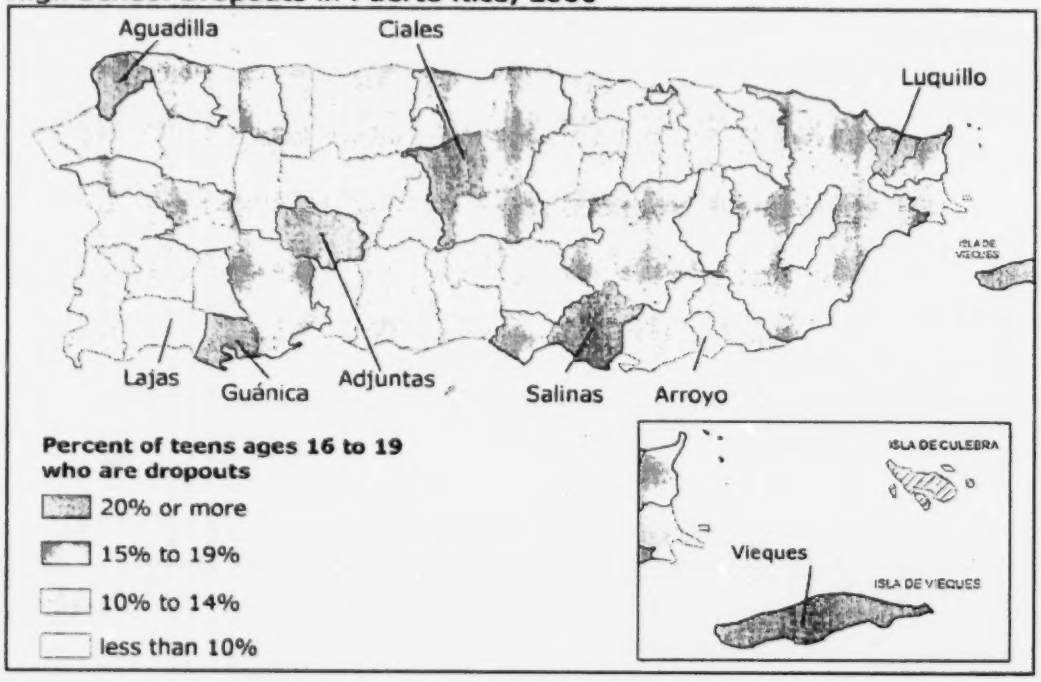
High School Dropouts

Dropout rates in 2000 also varied in Puerto Rico's local areas (see Map 4). There were seven municipalities where at least one-fifth of teens were high school dropouts in 2000, including Adjuntas and Aguadilla (22 percent each), Luquillo (21 percent), and Ciales, Guánica, Salinas, and Vieques (20 percent each). Several other municipalities had dropout rates that were relatively low, especially Lajas (7 percent) and Arroyo (8 percent). Dropout rates were highest in Puerto Rico's rural communities (16 percent) and lowest in central city areas (12 percent).

Map 4

High School Dropouts in Puerto Rico, 2000



Note: Data for Culebra are not shown because of the small sample size.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

It is notable that dropout rates decreased in every municipality during the 1990s. Municipalities with substantial decreases in the dropout rate included Lajas (70 percent), Florida (68 percent), Arroyo (64 percent), Jayuya and Patillas (62 percent each), and San Germán (60

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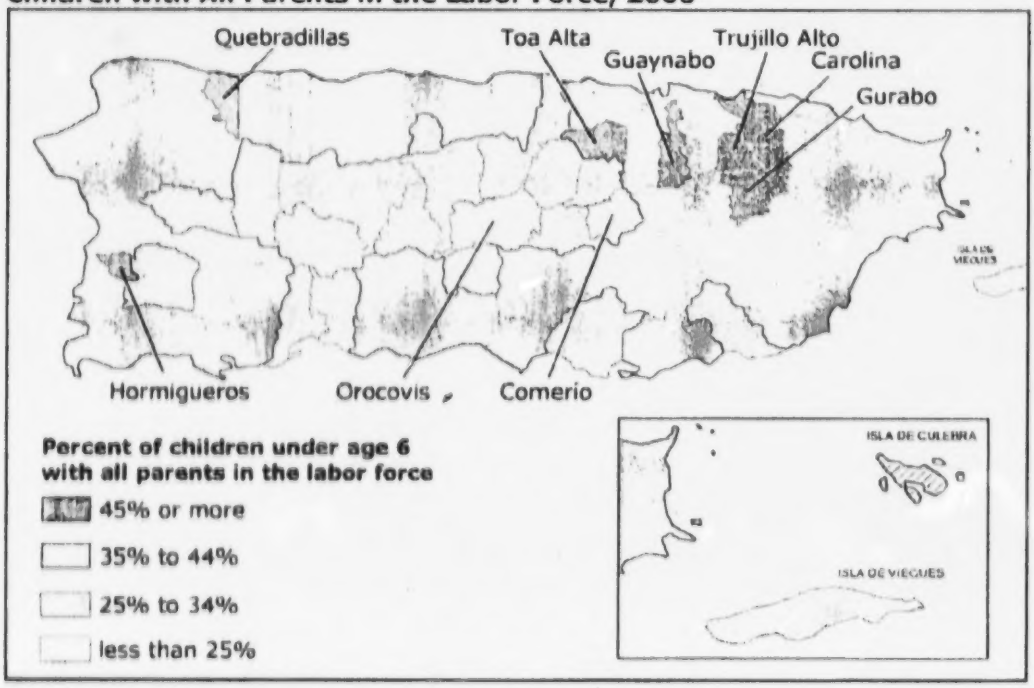
percent). There were only two municipalities— Aguas Buenas and Fajardo—where dropout rates declined by less than 10 percent during the 1990s.

The Need for Child Care

In 2000, the need for child care was highest in Carolina, Guaynabo, Gurabo, Hormigueros, Quebradillas, Toa Alta, and Trujillo Alto, where just under 50 percent of children lived in families with all parents in the labor force (see Map 5). In contrast, fewer than one in four children in Comerío and Orocovis lived in families with all parents in the labor force in 2000. In Puerto Rico as a whole, 44 percent of young children living in central cities were in need of child care, compared with 38 percent of children in suburbs and 33 percent in rural areas.

Map 5

Children with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2000



Note: Data for Culebra are not shown because of the small sample size.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

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Local variation in the need for child care is also closely linked to women's labor force participation rates. Women ages 16 and over had the highest participation rates in Guaynabo and Trujillo Alto (40 percent each). In Orocovis and Comerío, fewer than one in four women were counted as being in the labor force in 2000.[19]

Conclusion

Puerto Rico has been described as an "Island Paradox" because of its unique political and economic situation as a semi-autonomous commonwealth of the United States.[40] Politically, the people of Puerto Rico enjoy many of the same entitlements as residents in the 50 states, including the right to participate in federal programs and to elect local officials. But economically, Puerto Rico lags far behind the United States, with a median household income less than half that of West Virginia—the poorest state.

There is also a mixed picture regarding the status of children in Puerto Rico. The good news is that conditions for children have improved for some measures of child well-being. Between 1990 and 2000, Puerto Rico's child poverty and high school dropout rates declined significantly. There has also been a substantial, long-term decline in the proportion of children in Puerto Rico's population, which could provide some relief for agencies working to improve child welfare.

Despite these positive developments, children in Puerto Rico are still at a serious disadvantage compared with children living in the United States. The child poverty rate is almost four times higher in Puerto Rico than it is in the states. One out of every seven teens ages 16 to 19 does not receive a high school diploma. Many of these young adults join the ranks of the unemployed—particularly in Puerto Rico's rural areas where there are fewer job opportunities. In addition, there has been a widespread increase in the proportion of female-headed households in Puerto Rico, putting more children at risk of negative social and economic outcomes.

The census data shown in this report provide an overview of some of the key challenges facing children in Puerto Rico. However, there are several areas where greater effort or more attention is needed:

Data Collection

Data from the decennial census are collected every 10 years. However, data on children need to be collected annually in order to effectively monitor child outcomes. This is especially important given the recent economic downturn and its potential impact on children and families. In the United States, the Current Population Survey is often used to track annual changes in child well being at the state level, but there is currently no equivalent survey conducted in Puerto Rico. The American Community Survey—if fully funded by Congress—will provide annual estimates for Puerto Rico's local areas and include data similar to those available from the decennial census. For more information about this program, visit the Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov/acs/www/.

Local Surveys

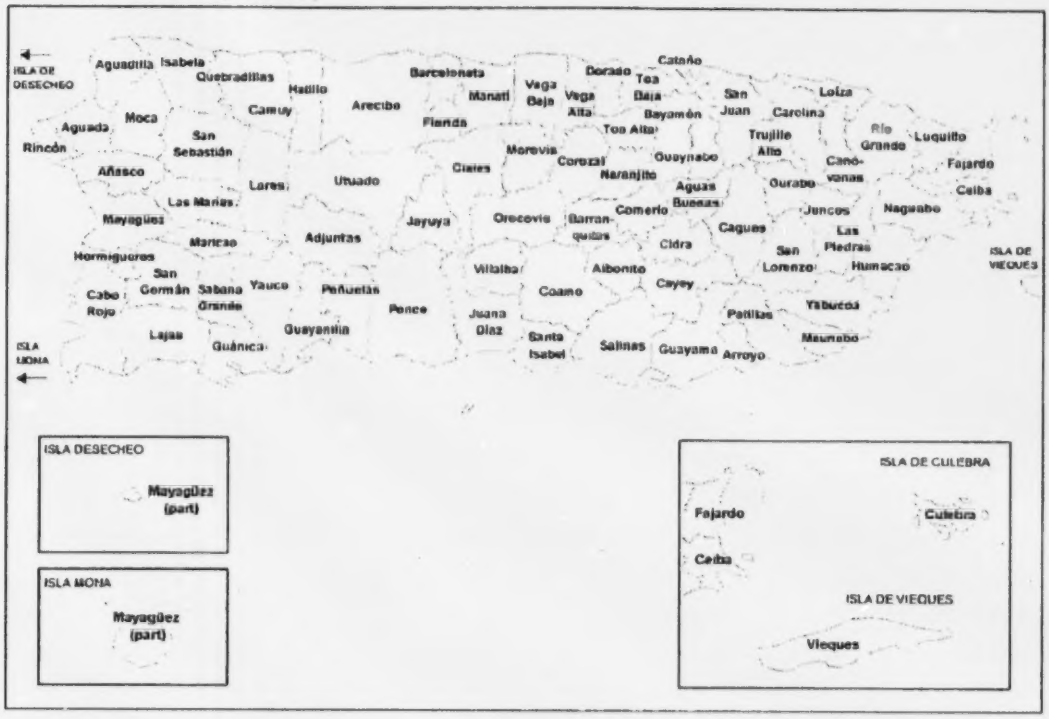
Many important indicators of child welfare (e.g., child health status) are not available from the decennial census, and other measures (e.g., child care) can only be measured indirectly with census data. Therefore, it is important to supplement these census data with information collected through local surveys and from administrative sources. A more in-depth analysis of each of the child indicators included in this report would be useful in order to highlight specific policies and programs that could benefit children and families.

Comparative Studies

Finally, Puerto Rican families living in the United States tend to have substantially higher incomes than families living in Puerto Rico, and it would be useful to compare the status of children in these different contexts.

Appendix 1

Puerto Rico Municipalities



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Appendix 2: The 2000 Census in Puerto Rico

The 2000 Census is the most comprehensive and accurate source of data for small areas in the United States and Puerto Rico. Conducted every 10 years, the census includes a short form and a long form. The census short form is mailed to every household identified by the Census Bureau. It contains basic population and housing questions, including age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, and relationship to householder. In the United States, the census long form is mailed to approximately one in six households. It contains all of the basic demographic questions from the census short form, plus questions on education, family structure, household characteristics, income, place of residence, and other characteristics. In Puerto Rico, the basic content of the 2000 Census short form and long form questionnaires matched those that were used in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

In the census, people are enumerated based on usual place of residence. Therefore, foreign travelers and others who do not have their usual residence in Puerto Rico are excluded from this analysis. People in the U.S. Armed Forces and their families assigned to a Navy or Coast Guard vessel with a U.S. home port were given the opportunity to report an onshore residence where they usually stayed. Those who did not report a usual place of residence onshore were counted at their vessel's home port.[41] In 2000, there were 4,669 people ages 16 and over in Puerto Rico who reported being in the Armed Forces.[42]

The data shown in this report are based primarily on 2000 Census long form data released in September 2002. Census 2000 data tables for Puerto Rico are available—in English—on the Census Bureau's American FactFinder website at http://factfinder.census.gov. Tables are available in Spanish at http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet?_is=true&_lang=es.

For more information census data for Puerto Rico, see *Introduction to Census 2000 Data Products—Puerto Rico* on the Census Bureau's website (in English) at www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/mso01ipre.pdf or in Spanish at http://landview.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/mso01ipr.pdf. Copies of the 2000 Census questionnaires that were used in Puerto Rico—in both English and Spanish—are available on the Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov/dmd/www/2000quest.html#pacific.

Appendix 3

Total Population and the Population Under Age 18 in Puerto Rico, by Municipality, 2000

Area	Total population	Population under age 18	Percent under age 18	Area	Total population	Population under age 18	Percent under age 18
Puerto Rico	**3,808,610**	**1,092,101**	**29%**	**Puerto Rico**	**3,808,610**	**1,092,101**	**29%**
Adjuntas	19,143	6,174	32%	Juncos	36,452	10,750	29%
Aguada	42,042	12,529	30%	Lajas	26,261	7,196	27%
Aguadilla	64,685	17,759	27%	Lares	34,415	10,531	31%
Aguas Buenas	29,032	8,521	29%	Las Marías	11,061	3,343	30%
Aibonito	26,493	8,088	31%	Las Piedras	34,485	10,031	29%
Añasco	28,348	8,025	28%	Loíza	32,537	11,441	35%
Arecibo	100,131	26,617	27%	Luquillo	19,817	5,779	29%
Arroyo	19,117	6,028	32%	Manatí	45,409	13,420	30%
Barceloneta	22,322	6,625	30%	Maricao	6,449	2,080	32%
Barranquitas	28,909	10,216	35%	Maunabo	12,741	3,854	30%
Bayamón	224,044	59,999	27%	Mayagüez	98,434	23,664	24%
Cabo Rojo	46,911	12,018	26%	Moca	39,697	12,005	30%
Caguas	140,502	39,103	28%	Morovis	29,965	10,401	35%
Camuy	35,244	10,327	29%	Naguabo	23,753	6,911	29%
Canóvanas	43,335	13,635	31%	Naranjito	29,709	9,386	32%
Carolina	186,076	48,934	26%	Orocovis	23,844	8,165	34%
Cataño	30,071	9,615	32%	Patillas	20,152	6,098	30%
Cayey	47,370	13,496	28%	Peñuelas	26,719	9,237	35%
Ceiba	18,004	5,234	29%	Ponce	186,475	54,777	29%
Ciales	19,811	6,593	33%	Quebradillas	25,450	7,643	30%
Cidra	42,753	13,107	31%	Rincón	14,767	3,872	26%
Coamo	37,597	12,056	32%	Río Grande	52,362	15,617	30%
Comerío	20,002	6,283	31%	Sabana Grande	25,935	7,400	29%
Corozal	36,867	11,742	32%	Salinas	31,113	9,963	32%
Culebra	1,868	517	28%	San Germán	37,105	9,746	26%
Dorado	34,017	9,835	29%	San Juan	434,374	107,665	25%
Fajardo	40,712	11,789	29%	San Lorenzo	40,997	12,224	30%
Florida	12,367	3,794	31%	San Sebastián	44,204	12,309	28%
Guánica	21,888	6,530	30%	Santa Isabel	21,665	7,213	33%
Guayama	44,301	13,490	30%	Toa Alta	63,929	20,903	33%
Guayanilla	23,072	6,924	30%	Toa Baja	94,085	27,447	29%
Guaynabo	100,053	26,302	26%	Trujillo Alto	75,728	22,170	29%
Gurabo	36,743	10,862	30%	Utuado	35,336	10,860	31%
Hatillo	38,925	11,389	29%	Vega Alta	37,910	11,601	31%
Hormigueros	16,614	3,931	24%	Vega Baja	61,929	18,830	30%
Humacao	59,035	16,828	29%	Vieques	9,106	2,704	30%
Isabela	44,444	12,356	28%	Villalba	27,913	9,629	34%
Jayuya	17,318	5,925	34%	Yabucoa	39,246	11,735	30%
Juana Díaz	50,531	16,512	33%	Yauco	46,384	13,793	30%

Source: PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, "P12. Sex by Age," Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Appendix 4

Female-Headed Households with Own Children in Puerto Rico, by Municipality, 2000

Area	Family households with own children	Female-headed households with own children	Percent
Puerto Rico	**486,409**	**131,584**	**27%**
Adjuntas	2,656	511	19%
Aguada	6,077	1,049	17%
Aguadilla	8,122	2,233	27%
Aguas Buenas	3,873	818	21%
Aibonito	3,640	833	23%
Añasco	3,615	840	23%
Arecibo	11,985	3,085	26%
Arroyo	2,535	767	30%
Barceloneta	2,899	792	27%
Barranquitas	4,470	917	21%
Bayamón	27,716	7,959	29%
Cabo Rojo	5,638	1,307	23%
Caguas	18,075	5,183	29%
Camuy	4,886	959	20%
Canóvanas	5,607	1,466	26%
Carolina	22,332	7,090	32%
Cataño	3,975	1,454	37%
Cayey	6,216	1,570	25%
Ceiba	2,405	497	21%
Ciales	2,745	536	20%
Cidra	6,170	1,254	20%
Coamo	5,071	1,190	23%
Comerío	2,822	655	23%
Corozal	5,223	1,031	20%
Culebra	221	57	26%
Dorado	4,370	1,054	24%
Fajardo	5,066	1,549	31%
Florida	1,669	422	25%
Guánica	2,634	730	28%
Guayama	5,896	1,704	29%
Guayanilla	2,950	768	26%
Guaynabo	12,608	3,427	27%
Gurabo	4,996	1,056	21%
Hatillo	5,290	1,168	22%
Hormigueros	1,922	424	22%
Humacao	7,306	1,972	27%
Isabela	5,781	1,279	22%
Jayuya	2,443	503	21%
Juana Díaz	6,612	1,524	23%
Juncos	4,905	1,263	26%
Lajas	3,121	760	24%
Lares	4,667	883	19%
Las Marías	1,461	322	22%
Las Piedras	4,707	1,110	24%
Loíza	4,616	1,518	33%
Luquillo	2,428	629	26%
Manatí	5,950	1,707	29%
Maricao	870	175	20%
Maunabo	1,575	421	27%
Mayagüez	10,421	3,141	30%
Moca	5,755	1,043	18%
Morovis	4,335	889	21%
Naguabo	2,987	797	27%
Naranjito	4,130	760	18%
Orocovis	3,474	554	16%
Patillas	2,702	624	23%
Peñuelas	3,671	746	20%
Ponce	22,776	7,140	31%
Quebradillas	3,528	692	20%
Rincón	1,799	387	22%
Río Grande	6,746	1,607	24%
Sabana Grande	3,265	841	26%
Salinas	4,105	1,244	30%
San Germán	4,420	1,154	26%
San Juan	49,074	20,089	41%
San Lorenzo	5,506	1,250	23%
San Sebastián	5,723	1,184	21%
Santa Isabel	2,813	806	29%
Toa Alta	9,911	2,044	21%
Toa Baja	12,280	3,444	28%
Trujillo Alto	10,487	2,693	26%
Utuado	4,529	1,009	22%
Vega Alta	4,972	1,347	27%
Vega Baja	8,047	2,089	26%
Vieques	1,071	342	32%
Villalba	3,780	694	18%
Yabucoa	5,121	1,095	21%
Yauco	6,164	1,458	24%

Source: PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, "P34. Family Type by Presence and Age of Own Children," Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Appendix 5

Related Children Below the Poverty Line in Puerto Rico, by Municipality, 1999

Area	Number of related children below poverty line	Percent of related children below poverty line	Area	Number of related children below poverty line	Percent of related children below poverty line
Puerto Rico	**626,521**	**58%**	**Puerto Rico**	**626,521**	**58%**
Adjuntas	4,566	75%	Juncos	6,594	62%
Aguada	8,464	68%	Lajas	4,805	68%
Aguadilla	11,084	65%	Lares	7,684	74%
Aguas Buenas	4,876	58%	Las Marías	2,508	76%
Aibonito	4,712	59%	Las Piedras	5,400	54%
Añasco	4,741	59%	Loíza	7,689	68%
Arecibo	15,500	59%	Luquillo	3,584	63%
Arroyo	3,884	66%	Manatí	8,071	60%
Barceloneta	4,183	64%	Maricao	1,556	77%
Barranquitas	6,895	69%	Maunabo	2,632	70%
Bayamón	26,180	44%	Mayagüez	14,239	62%
Cabo Rojo	6,573	56%	Moca	7,800	66%
Caguas	19,346	50%	Morovis	7,026	68%
Camuy	6,034	59%	Naguabo	4,380	64%
Canóvanas	8,552	63%	Naranjito	5,868	63%
Carolina	21,810	45%	Orocovis	6,039	75%
Cataño	5,588	59%	Patillas	3,621	60%
Cayey	7,902	60%	Peñuelas	6,405	70%
Ceiba	2,228	43%	Ponce	35,221	65%
Ciales	4,735	73%	Quebradillas	4,793	64%
Cidra	6,774	53%	Rincón	2,469	65%
Coamo	7,846	66%	Río Grande	8,424	54%
Comerío	4,278	70%	Sabana Grande	4,435	61%
Corozal	7,637	66%	Salinas	6,628	68%
Culebra	192	—	San Germán	5,892	62%
Dorado	4,736	49%	San Juan	58,965	56%
Fajardo	6,158	53%	San Lorenzo	7,331	61%
Florida	2,356	62%	San Sebastián	7,875	65%
Guánica	4,772	75%	Santa Isabel	4,682	66%
Guayama	8,150	62%	Toa Alta	9,038	44%
Guayanilla	4,398	64%	Toa Baja	13,155	49%
Guaynabo	10,863	42%	Trujillo Alto	8,894	41%
Gurabo	5,249	49%	Utuado	7,529	71%
Hatillo	7,197	64%	Vega Alta	7,218	63%
Hormigueros	1,892	48%	Vega Baja	11,033	59%
Humacao	9,453	57%	Vieques	2,187	81%
Isabela	7,660	63%	Villalba	6,608	69%
Jayuya	4,201	72%	Yabucoa	7,389	63%
Juana Díaz	10,321	64%	Yauco	8,868	65%

Note: — Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 200 cases in the denominator.
Source: PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, "PCT52. Poverty Status in 1999 of Related Children Under 18 Years by Family Type by Age," Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Appendix 6

Teens Ages 16 to 19 who Are High School Dropouts in Puerto Rico, by Municipality, 2000

Area	Teens ages 16 to 19	Teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Percent	Area	Teens ages 16 to 19	Teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts	Percent
Puerto Rico	**247,452**	**34,942**	**14%**	**Puerto Rico**	**247,452**	**34,942**	**14%**
Adjuntas	1,422	312	22%	Juncos	2,322	372	16%
Aguada	2,908	385	13%	Lajas	1,612	109	7%
Aguadilla	4,533	1,012	22%	Lares	2,485	359	14%
Aguas Buenas	1,984	306	15%	Las Marías	755	125	17%
Aibonito	1,879	284	15%	Las Piedras	2,380	323	14%
Añasco	1,821	318	17%	Loíza	2,480	409	16%
Arecibo	5,898	612	10%	Luquillo	1,267	272	21%
Arroyo	1,331	108	8%	Manatí	2,932	516	18%
Barceloneta	1,337	230	17%	Maricao	472	83	18%
Barranquitas	2,265	299	13%	Maunabo	842	156	19%
Bayamón	13,899	1,843	13%	Mayagüez	7,702	889	12%
Cabo Rojo	2,522	361	14%	Moca	2,636	347	13%
Caguas	8,880	1,042	12%	Morovis	1,995	325	16%
Camuy	2,183	335	15%	Naguabo	1,574	297	19%
Canóvanas	2,849	479	17%	Naranjito	2,195	277	13%
Carolina	10,872	1,131	10%	Orocovis	1,667	261	16%
Cataño	2,277	426	19%	Patillas	1,414	158	11%
Cayey	3,083	479	16%	Peñuelas	2,108	267	13%
Ceiba	940	99	11%	Ponce	12,761	1,731	14%
Ciales	1,329	265	20%	Quebradillas	1,715	242	14%
Cidra	3,387	584	17%	Rincón	874	107	12%
Coamo	2,282	278	12%	Río Grande	3,254	495	15%
Comerío	1,552	248	16%	Sabana Grande	1,655	180	11%
Corozal	2,865	383	13%	Salinas	2,026	400	20%
Culebra	73	6	—	San Germán	2,522	254	10%
Dorado	2,125	262	13%	San Juan	25,301	3,412	13%
Fajardo	2,097	318	15%	San Lorenzo	2,989	504	17%
Florida	710	77	11%	San Sebastián	2,930	415	14%
Guánica	1,583	313	20%	Santa Isabel	1,308	199	15%
Guayama	3,038	400	13%	Toa Alta	4,035	491	12%
Guayanilla	1,777	261	15%	Toa Baja	6,227	797	13%
Guaynabo	5,861	750	13%	Trujillo Alto	5,030	695	14%
Gurabo	2,193	385	18%	Utuado	2,484	334	13%
Hatillo	2,423	321	13%	Vega Alta	2,556	452	18%
Hormigueros	888	92	10%	Vega Baja	3,981	657	17%
Humacao	4,111	664	16%	Vieques	601	121	20%
Isabela	2,775	462	17%	Villalba	2,131	262	12%
Jayuya	1,277	147	12%	Yabucoa	2,731	450	16%
Juana Díaz	3,222	437	14%	Yauco	3,052	465	15%

Note: — Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 200 cases in the denominator.

Source: PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, "P38. Armed Forces Status by School Enrollment by Educational Attainment by Employment Status for the Population 16 to 19 Years," Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Appendix 7

Children Under Age 6 With All Parents in the Labor Force in Puerto Rico, by Municipality, 2000

Area	Children under age 6	Children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	Percent	Area	Children under age 6	Children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	Percent
Puerto Rico	**336,446**	**133,324**	**40%**	**Puerto Rico**	**336,446**	**133,324**	**40%**
Adjuntas	1,659	443	27%	Juncos	3,519	1,290	37%
Aguada	3,889	1,613	41%	Lajas	2,218	912	41%
Aguadilla	5,418	1,962	36%	Lares	3,084	800	26%
Aguas Buenas	2,554	937	37%	Las Marías	1,034	310	30%
Aibonito	2,222	829	37%	Las Piedras	3,158	1,141	36%
Añasco	2,515	1,027	41%	Loíza	3,175	1,100	35%
Arecibo	8,384	2,925	35%	Luquillo	1,835	740	40%
Arroyo	1,751	607	35%	Manatí	4,268	1,523	36%
Barceloneta	2,279	922	40%	Maricao	532	198	37%
Barranquitas	3,048	834	27%	Maunabo	986	424	43%
Bayamón	18,557	8,061	43%	Mayagüez	7,076	2,964	42%
Cabo Rojo	4,006	1,594	40%	Moca	4,067	1,551	38%
Caguas	12,313	5,263	43%	Morovis	3,272	1,099	34%
Camuy	3,337	1,418	42%	Naguabo	2,111	876	41%
Canóvanas	4,140	1,626	39%	Naranjito	2,791	763	27%
Carolina	15,538	7,313	47%	Orocovis	2,471	605	24%
Cataño	2,810	1,001	36%	Patillas	1,748	597	34%
Cayey	4,048	1,644	41%	Peñuelas	2,692	779	29%
Ceiba	1,810	786	43%	Ponce	16,226	6,453	40%
Ciales	1,846	607	33%	Quebradillas	2,452	1,096	45%
Cidra	4,059	1,597	39%	Rincón	1,221	523	43%
Coamo	3,830	1,526	40%	Río Grande	4,918	1,977	40%
Comerío	1,670	386	23%	Sabana Grande	2,570	960	37%
Corozal	3,426	996	29%	Salinas	3,188	1,087	34%
Culebra	141	85	—	San Germán	2,959	991	33%
Dorado	3,106	1,191	38%	San Juan	33,753	14,618	43%
Fajardo	3,744	1,608	43%	San Lorenzo	3,711	1,420	38%
Florida	1,257	407	32%	San Sebastián	3,762	1,474	39%
Guánica	1,956	681	35%	Santa Isabel	2,441	1,052	43%
Guayama	4,194	1,706	41%	Toa Alta	6,831	3,187	47%
Guayanilla	2,120	670	32%	Toa Baja	8,341	3,604	43%
Guaynabo	7,936	3,775	48%	Trujillo Alto	7,043	3,327	47%
Gurabo	3,612	1,685	47%	Utuado	3,018	994	33%
Hatillo	3,432	1,277	37%	Vega Alta	3,462	1,137	33%
Hormigueros	1,274	627	49%	Vega Baja	5,746	2,214	39%
Humacao	5,108	1,793	35%	Vieques	690	228	33%
Isabela	3,744	1,339	36%	Villalba	3,015	1,003	33%
Jayuya	1,707	565	33%	Yabucoa	3,502	1,275	36%
Juana Díaz	4,998	2,092	42%	Yauco	4,122	1,614	39%

Note: — Percentage is not shown because there are fewer than 200 cases in the denominator.

Source: PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, "P46. Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents," Census 2000 Summary File 3.

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References and Notes

[1] In this report, children are defined as the population under 18 years of age.

[2] There are government agencies in Puerto Rico that collect data on income, unemployment, and other economic indicators, but the decennial census is the largest—and most comprehensive—survey of Puerto Rico's population. Data from the decennial census in Puerto Rico often differ from information collected through local agencies. For information about these discrepancies, see Francisco L. Rivera-Batiz and Carlos E. Santiago, *Island Paradox: Puerto Rico in the 1990s* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1997): 166-168.

[3] The islands of Mona and Desecheo are part of the Mayagüez municipality but do not have any residents.

[4] PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: Average Monthly Amount of Assistance, 1997–1999," accessed online at www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/opre/tanfdata/caseload/a$$istance.htm\, on Jan. 27, 2003; and "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: Average Monthly Number of Families and Recipients, 1999," accessed online at www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/opre/tanfdata/caseload/FY99.htm, on Jan. 27, 2003.

[5] Rivera-Batiz and Santiago, *Island Paradox: Puerto Rico in the 1990s*: 1-21.

[6] The 2000 Census, like the 1990 Census, asked questions about income in the previous calendar year. Therefore, income and poverty are reported for 1989 and 1999. Data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census and 2000 Census Profiles of Selected Economic Characteristics for Puerto Rico and the United States.

[7] PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, "P53. Median Household Income in 1999 (Dollars)" and "P152H. Median Household Income in 1999 (Dollars) (Hispanic or Latino Householder)," accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov, on June 2, 2003.

[8] In 2002, Puerto Rico Governor Sila Calderón announced plans for an ambitious program to reduce poverty and increase standards of living in the Commonwealth. The $1 billion effort is designed to improve roadways, housing, water, electricity, and social services for 700 of Puerto Rico's poorest communities.

[9] U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Profile of General Demographic Characteristics for the United States.

[10] PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, "PCT11. Hispanic or Latino by Specific Origin," accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov, on Jan.27, 2003.

[11] R.S. Oropesa and Nancy S. Landale, "From Austerity to Prosperity? Migration and Child Poverty Among Mainland and Island Puerto Ricans," *Demography* 37, no. 3 (August 2000).

[12] U.S. Census Bureau, "Puerto Rico Components of Change by Municipality: April 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 (Cumulative)," accessed online at http://eire.census.gov/popest/data/puerto/PR-EST2001-03.php, on Jan. 23, 2003.

[13] PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, "PCT19. Place of Birth for the Foreign-Born Population," accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov, on Jan.27, 2003. The foreign-born population includes all people who were not U.S. citizens at birth.

[14] Caribbean Business, "Census: How Many Are We?" May 3, 2001. Note: Estimates of the number of undocumented Dominicans in Puerto Rico are not available.

[15] PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, "P37. Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over," accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov, on April 18, 2003.

[16] For more information, see Rivera-Batiz and Santiago, *Island Paradox: Puerto Rico in the 1990s*: 166-168.

[17] For a discussion of some of the factors that can lead to census undercount, see Barry Edmonston, "The Undercount of Children in the 2000 Census," *A KIDS COUNT/PRB Report on Census 2000*, accessed online at www.aecf.org/kidscount/undercount_paper_final.pdf, on April 17, 2003. For an overview of the 1990 undercount in Puerto Rico, see Jorge Duany, "The Census Undercount, the Underground Economy and Undocumented Migration: The Case of Dominicans in Santurce, Puerto Rico," *Ethnographic Evaluation of the 1990 Decennial Census*, Report #17, accesed online at www.census.gov/srd/papers/pdf/ev92-17.pdf, on April 18, 2003.

[18] Jorge Duany, "Counting the Uncountable: Undocumented Immigrants and Informal Workers in Puerto Rico," *Latino Studies Journal* 7, no. 2 (1996).

[19] U.S. Census Bureau, "Census 2000 Final Response Rates," accessed online at http://rates.census.gov/rates.php3?, on Jan 27, 2003. The response rates represent responses received by mail, telephone or over the Internet through September 7, 2000.

[20] U.S. Census Bureau, "Technical Summary of A.C.E. Revision II for the Committee on National Statistics," accessed online at www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/ExecSumm.pdf, on April 17, 2003.

[21] World Bank, "Health Nutrition and Population Statistics," accessed online at http://devdata.worldbank.org/hnpstats/, on Jan. 24, 2003; and Harriet Presser, "Recent Trends in Fertility and Sterilization in Puerto Rico," *Family Planning Perspectives* 12, no. 2 (March/April 1980).

[22] Joyce A. Martin et al., "Births: Final Data for 2000," *National Vital Statistics Reports* 50, no. 5 (2002).

[23] Presser, "Recent Trends in Fertility and Sterilization in Puerto Rico."

[24] The World Bank, "Health Nutrition and Population Statistics," accessed online at http://devdata.worldbank.org/hnpstats/, on Jan. 24, 2003.

[25] Carl Haub and Britt Herstad, *Family Planning Worldwide 2002 Data Sheet*, (Washington DC: Population Reference Bureau, 2002).

[26] Oropesa and Landale, "From Austerity to Prosperity?"

[27] PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, "P24. Residence in 1995 for the Population 5 Years and Over—State and County Level," accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov, on Feb. 12, 2003. This table shows that in 2000, there were 243,000 people ages 5 and over living on the U.S. mainland who resided in Puerto Rico in 1995—more than twice the number of people living in Puerto Rico who resided on the U.S. mainland in 1995 (113,000).

[28] Annie E. Casey Foundation, *2002 KIDS COUNT Data Book* (Baltimore: Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2002): 38.

[29] Some children in Puerto Rico reside with unmarried parents but are categorized as living in single-parent families because a spouse is not present in the household. In Puerto Rico, there were about 40,000 unmarried-couple households identified in the 2000 Census, accounting for 6 percent of all coupled households. For more information about unmarried-partner households, see Tavia Simmons and Martin O'Connell, "Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households: 2000," *Census 2000 Special Reports* (February 2003), accessed online at www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/censr-5.pdf, on April 21, 2003.

[30] In 1999, the U.S. poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $16,895. Poverty guidelines include higher income thresholds for Hawaii and Alaska but are not adjusted for U.S. commonwealths and territories. The child poverty rate in the District of Columbia in 1999 was 31 percent.

[31] PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, "PCT40. Median Family Income in 1999 (Dollars) by Family Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years," accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov, on Jan.27, 2003.

[32] Annie E. Casey Foundation, *2002 KIDS COUNT Data Book*: 34.

[33] This U.S. estimate of high school dropouts (10 percent), based on 2000 Census data, differs from the estimate of 11 percent shown in a previous report, *A First Look at Children in the U.S. Virgin Islands*, which was based on data from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey. U.S. figures from the 2000 Census were unavailable at the time the previous report was published.

[34] The labor force includes people who are employed and also those who are unemployed and looking for work. In Puerto Rico, about 19 percent of the civilian labor force was unemployed in 2000.

[35] Rivera-Batiz and Santiago, *Island Paradox: Puerto Rico in the 1990s*: 104-107.

[36] U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics for Puerto Rico and the United States.

[37] The Census Bureau's definition of "urban" is based primarily on population density in a given area but also includes cities and towns with more than 2,500 people. In this report, "central city" areas consist of the most densely populated regions within an urban area, and "suburbs" are defined as urban areas outside of the central city. Rural territories include all areas not classified as urban.

[38] PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, "P43. Sex by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over," accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov, on Jan.27, 2003.

[39] PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, "P43. Sex by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over," accessed online at http://factfinder.census.gov, on Jan.27, 2003. Note: Many women in Puerto Rico work in the informal sector, and these activities may be more difficult to measure in the census. Therefore, actual labor force participation rates may be higher than those reported here.

[40] Rivera-Batiz and Santiago, *Island Paradox: Puerto Rico in the 1990s*.

[41] U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File–Technical Documentation*, accessed online at www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/pl94-171.pdf2001, on Oct. 21, 2002.

[42] U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Profile of General Demographic Characteristics for Puerto Rico.

For More Information:

Additional 2000 Census data on Puerto Rico (in Excel and PDF formats) are available from the U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/islandareas.html.

Data for Puerto Rico from the 1990 Census (in PDF format) are available from the U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov/population/www/proas/pi_cen.html.

For definitions of some of the census terms used in this report, see "A Glossary of Census Terms," available on the KIDS COUNT website at www.aecf.org/kidscount/glossary.pdf.

For a Spanish-language version of this report, visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT website at www.kidscount.org or PRB's AmeriStat website at www.ameristat.org.

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